Buddhist Maha Vihara

Continuing the spread of Buddhism in Malaysia
for over 122 years .....

Millions have benefitted from the selfless dedication
of our Sangha, volunteer teachers & friends of
the Vihara obtaining Buddhist education,
free publications, counselling, blessings,
welfare assistance, etc.

Publication of the

Sasana Abhiwurdhi Wardhana Society

佛陀教义弘扬协会

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FOREWORD

The entire system of Buddhist education must be rooted in faith (*saddhå*) - faith in the Triple Gem, and above all in the Buddha as the Fully Enlightened One, the peerless teacher and supreme guide to right living and right understanding. Based on this faith, students must be inspired to become accomplished in virtue (*sila*) by following the moral guidelines spelled out by the Five Precepts. They must come to know the precepts well, to understand the reasons for observing them, and to know how to apply them in the difficult circumstances of human life today. Most importantly, they should come to appreciate the positive virtues these precepts represent: kindness, honesty, purity, truthfulness, and mental sobriety. They must also acquire the spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice (*cåga*), so essential for overcoming selfishness, greed, and the narrow focus on self-advancement that dominates in present-day society. Striving to fulfill the ideal of generosity is to develop compassion and renunciation, qualities which sustained the Buddha throughout his entire career. To learn that cooperation is greater than competition, that self-sacrifice is more fulfilling than self-aggrandizement, and that our true welfare is to be achieved through harmony and goodwill rather than by exploiting and dominating others.

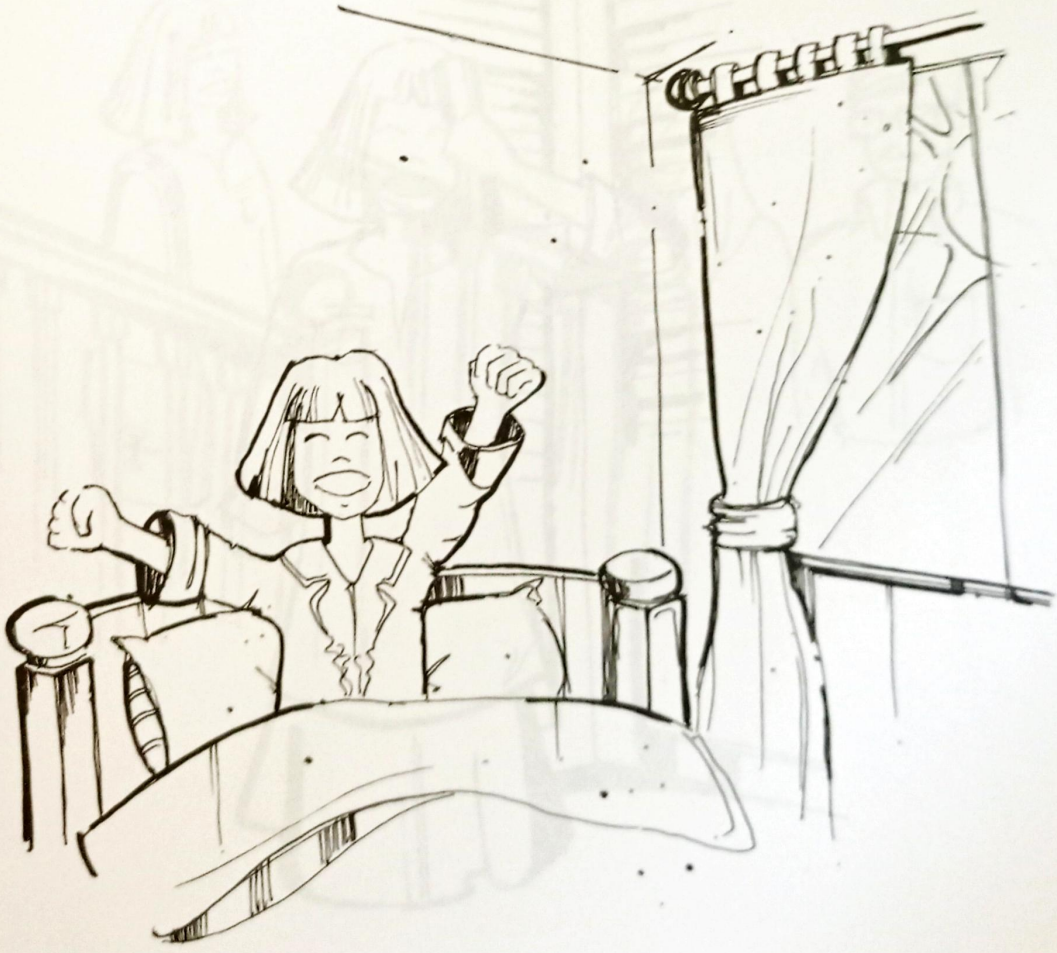
"Buddhist Child" is in line with the Society's mission *to make Buddhist Maha Vihara the leading centre in Buddhist education and the dissemination of the Dhamma.*

The Society would like to extend our gratitude to Venerable K. Khemarama for extending his works to be published by the Society.

Committee of Management
SASANA ABHIWURDHI WARDHANA SOCIETY
November 2007

A Good Child Does Not Kill Other Living Beings

It was a lovely morning. Michelle as usual got up very early. She loved to hear the birds singing in the trees. Michelle stretched herself and looked out of the window. "What a lovely morning?" she said.



After putting on her school uniform she ran downstairs to greet her parents.

"Good morning Mommy. Good morning Daddy" she said.

Michelle's mother started preparing breakfast for the family. They have a beautiful altar in the house. Every morning Michelle would go to the altar to pray.

She burnt some sweet smelling incense. She respectfully bowed before the Buddha and with her eyes closed she chanted:

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa.

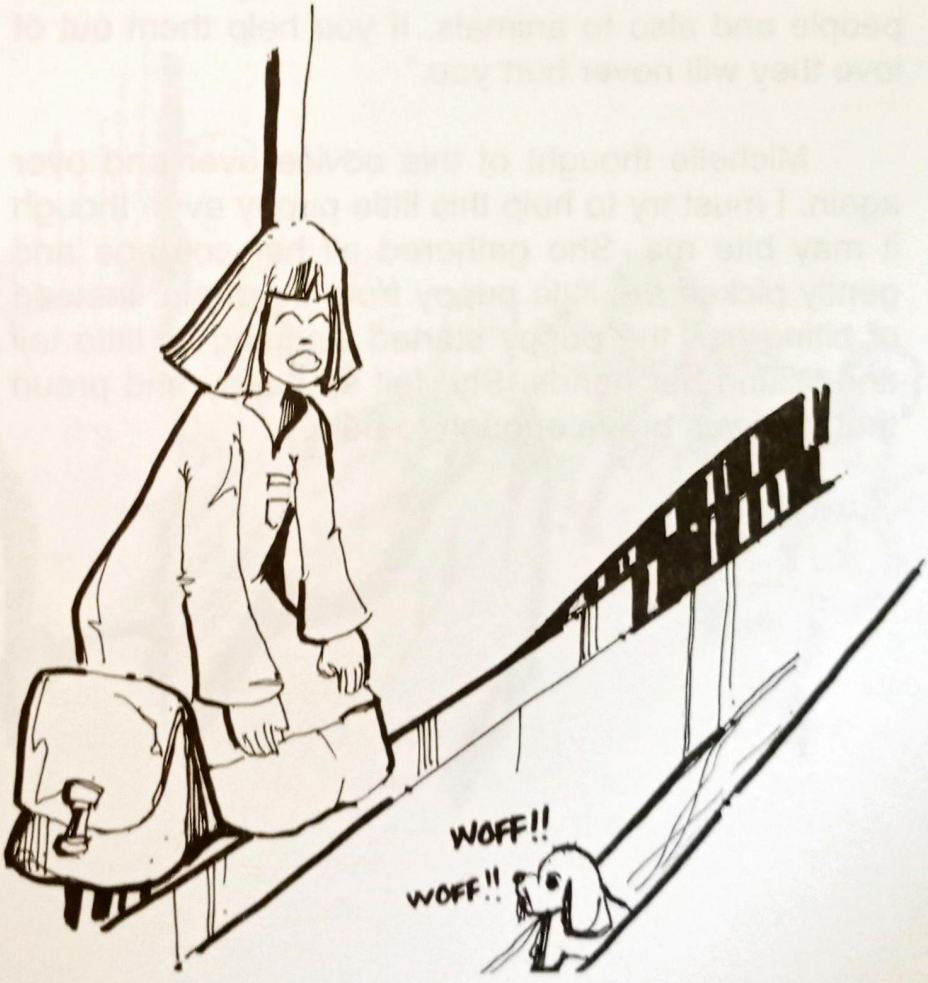
Buddham saranam gaccami,
Dhammam saranam gaccami,
Sangham saranam gaccami

"Michelle, breakfast is ready," her mother called.

"I will be there in a minute," Michelle answered. After breakfast Michelle went to school.

WOFF

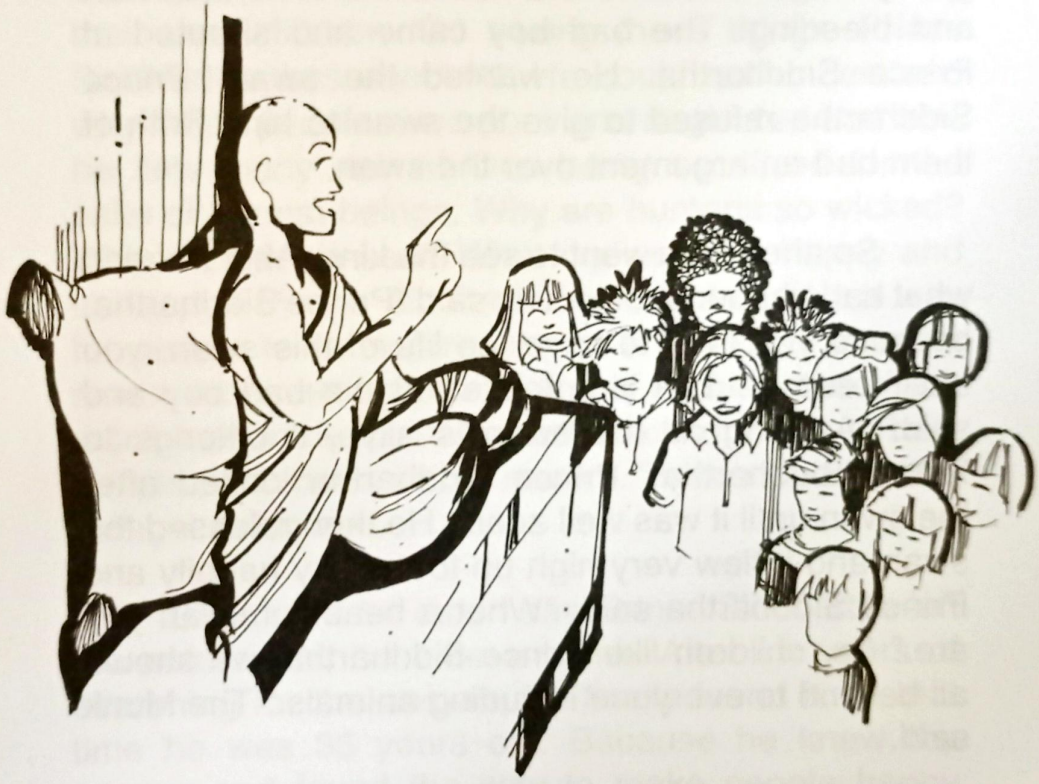
She decided to find out what was making the sound. When she approached the drain she saw a little puppy shivering in the drain. "Oh you poor little puppy," she sadly said. She was not brave enough to carry the little puppy out of the drain because she was afraid of dogs. She felt very sorry for the puppy.



"Oh dear, what shall I do? Should I help the puppy out?" Michelle wanted to leave the puppy there because she was too scared that it might bite her. Then she thought to herself, "If I do not help, the poor puppy will suffer. It may even die." Suddenly Michelle remembered something that a monk once told her in the temple. "We must always help those who are in difficulties. We must always be kind to people and also to animals. If you help them out of love they will never hurt you."

Michelle thought of this advice over and over again. I must try to help this little puppy even though it may bite me. She gathered all her courage and gently picked the little puppy from the drain. Instead of biting her, the puppy started wagging its little tail and licking her hands. She felt so happy and proud that she was brave enough to help.

As it was the full moon day, Michelle went to the temple with her parents in the evening. She saw a group of children listening to a monk speaking. She decided to join them. The monk was telling the story of the Buddha.



"Dear children, like all of you, the Buddha was also once a child. He was born more than 2500 years ago. His name was Prince Siddhartha. When he was young he had many friends. One of his friends was a very bad boy. One day, this bad boy took his bow and arrow and shot a poor harmless swan. Prince Siddhartha tried to stop him. But it was too late. He quickly ran to the place where the swan fell. He gently held the swan in his arms. The swan was hurt and bleeding. The bad boy came and shouted at Prince Siddhartha. He wanted the swan. Prince Siddhartha refused to give the swan to him. Both of them had an argument over the swan.

So, they both went to see the king. After hearing what had happened, the king said "Prince Siddhartha, because you tried to save the life of this swan, you shall keep it." The king looked at the bad boy and said. "As long as the swan is alive, it belongs to Prince Siddhartha." Prince Siddhartha looked after the swan until it was well again. He then released the swan and it flew very high up to the sky happily and Prince Siddhartha said: "What a beautiful swan you are." So, children like Prince Siddhartha, we should all be kind to everyone including animals." The Monk said.

Michelle remembered the little puppy that she had helped and she felt very happy.

Michelle also remembered many things that she learnt from the temple. She learnt that when Prince Siddhartha grew old, he saw many people suffering and some of them did not have enough lfood to eat. Some can't even walk because they were so sick and old. Some even were neglected by their own children. On seeing these things, Prince Siddhartha was shocked. He could not understand why these people were poor and neglected and also he saw many animal lives being sacrificed for the sake of human beings. Why are humans so wicked? Why are people sad? What makes them happy and unhappy? Prince Siddhartha decided to find a way for people to be happy forever. A few days later he saw a monk sitting peacefully, at a quiet place. The monk looked happy. "Maybe I can find a way to help people if I become a monk." Prince Siddhartha thought to himself.

Later, on a full moon day, Prince Siddhartha left the palace and became a monk. After six years of searching for the answer, he finally found it. At that time he was 35 years old. Because he knew the answer and found the way to make people happy forever, he was called the Buddha.

"Dear children, now do you all know who the Buddha is?" the Monk asked. Buddha helped many people, animals and even Devas too. He taught us to do good and to be kind to everybody. He taught us to be friendly with each other and respect our parents. We should look after them when they grow older. When we were young our parents looked after us, gave us everything, educated us and brought us up in a proper way.

"How nice if I can become such a great person like the Buddha. Then I can help many people and animals," Michelle thought to herself. "According to what the Monk said anybody can become a Buddha if they follow the teachings of the Buddha. I must learn more and more about the teachings of the Buddha. I must come to temple as often as I can." Then, Michelle made up her mind to come to the temple as often as possible. When the class was over, the monk asked the children to pay their respects to the Buddha.

One Saturday morning, Michelle went for a picnic by the sea with her parents and friends. It was a very lovely place. She swam and played many games with her friends. After some time, she got tired of swimming and playing. So she decided to take a walk along the beach. After walking some distance, she saw a group of boys hitting a snake with sticks.

Michelle ran and she saw that the snake was already dead. The boys then went away. Michelle felt very sad when she saw so much blood on the snake. Its head was broken and its body smashed. Michelle went to her parents and told them what she saw. "Mother, is it wrong to kill a snake?" she asked. Her mother then told her a story.

"Once there was a hunter. He caught a young beautiful parrot. He wanted to kill the parrot for food. When the parrot knew that the hunter was going to kill him, he started crying. "Why are you crying?" the hunter asked. "Are you afraid to die?"

"No, I am not afraid of dying - But I am crying because I have an old mother and an old father to look after in my nest. If you kill me, who is going to look after them? They may die of hunger."

The hunter realized that the parrot loved his parents very much. He decided to let the parrot go. "You are a very kind man, thank you very much," the parrot said. Like the parrot, other animals also have loved ones to look after. That is why we should not kill them. If we kill them, there may be no one to look after their young ones or their old parents."

After listening to the story, Michelle felt sorry for the snake. The Buddha advises children not to be cruel to animals, because they too are afraid of pain and death just like us. Like humans, animals also love their lives. We must always be kind to them and never hurt them.

Panatipata veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
I shall try my best never to kill.

SADHU SADHU SADHU!

THE 122 YEAR OLD BUDDHIST MAHA VIHARA, BRICKFIELDS

The Buddhist Maha Vihara was founded in 1894 by the Sasana Abhiwurdhi Wardhana Society (SAWS), the oldest registered Buddhist Society in the Klang Valley.

From its very inception, the Vihara has been managed by the Sinhala Buddhist community but always financially supported by the Chinese and Indian communities. The first structure of the Vihara was the Main Shrine room, completed in early 20th Century. The donors for the Shrine Room, as recorded in the Selangor Government Gazette 1896, pg. 408 are clearly Chinese and Indian communities and among the main donors were:

Kapitan Yeap Quang Seng, Towkay Loke Yew, K. Tambusamy Pillay, R. Doraisamy Pillay, Loke Chow Kit, San Peng and Son, Lim Tua Taw, etc...

The Vihara was always the focal point to mobilize the Buddhist community. The large gathering to protest and stop the screening of the then controversial film "Light of Asia" in 1927 in Malaysia was also held at the Vihara, and so was the mass gathering and signature campaign in the 1950s to lobby the government to declare Wesak as a national holiday.

During the Emergency period of 1948-1960, monks from the Vihara made a massive impact reaching out to calm and educate the psychologically disoriented Chinese New Villagers who were evicted from their traditional lands and placed in new settlements by the Government which was fighting a communist insurgency.

Since the 1940s, the Vihara commenced a free Dhamma publications program as a Dhammadutta outreach to the masses which by the year 2012 was made available in 28 languages, with millions of

copies of books and CDs produced. The Vihara's Buddhist Institute Sunday Dhamma School (BISDS), founded in 1929, is the oldest Sunday School in the country with an enrolment of more than 1200 students and continues to produce systematic books on Buddhist studies for children.

The Wesak procession organized by the Vihara since the 1890s is the oldest and largest religious procession in the country. The 3-day Wesak celebrations at the Vihara attracts about 100,000 people.

Many students or devotees who have studied and benefited from the BISDS, the Vihara's Free Publications, Dhamma programs, classes, talks, etc have gone on to set up new Buddhist societies and centers which help to spread Buddhism in the country far and wide.

The SAWS is also one of the founding members of the Malaysian Consultative Council for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) formed in 1983, a Council which constructively engages the Government on matters affecting non-Muslims in the country. The MCCBCHST Administrative office is based at the Vihara.

In 2004, the Vihara was a major focal point in the country to collect relief aid to assist the South Asian Tsunami that killed almost 280,000 people. Several 40 forty foot container equivalents of relief aid were dispatched out by the Vihara to Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Myanmar and Thailand by air, sea and land.

Buddhists remain the country's largest organ donors, thanks to Cornea and Organ Donation Campaign carried out by the Vihara.

The Vihara continues to operate to deliver its obligation to the Buddhist community till this day and is governed and directed by its Vision, 4 Missions, 6 Strategic Objectives and 4 Ennoblers in tribute and gratitude to all our past and current Sangha, volunteers,

donors, friends, etc. We would be failing in our duty if we fail to mention the name of the foremost amongst them, our late Venerable Chief, ie. Ven Dr Kirinde Sri Dhammananda.

Vision

To be a leading international center for the Learning, Practice and Dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma

Mission

To provide a conducive environment to:

- promote scholarship and study of the Buddha Dhamma
- propagate the Buddha Dhamma
- be the focus of Buddhist activities for the larger community
- foster Theravada Buddhist cultural and traditional practices

Six Strategic Objectives

To be the Buddhist center of choice for:

1. Learning, Practicing and Realization of the Dhamma
2. Spreading the Dhamma
3. Buddhist Civilization
4. Synergy groupings to sustain the Buddha Sasana
5. Compassion in Action
6. Financial Accountability while delivering Cultural Obligations

Four Ennoblers:

1. Loving Kindness
2. Compassion
3. Altruistic Joy
4. Equanimity

Motto

Go forth, for the good, happiness and welfare of the many, out of compassion for the world.

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT BUDDHIST MAHA VIHARA

- Dana for Monks (at Vihara or Home) and Bana (Sermons)
- Blessing Services / Funeral Services by Monks
- Booking of Facilities for religious functions / events
- Marriage Registration
- Full Moon / New Moon Day Puja & Free Vegetarian Lunch
- Sunday Dhamma Classes for Children & Adults
- Buddhist & Pali University Diploma, Degree & Masters Program
- K Sri Dhammananda Library
- Bookshop

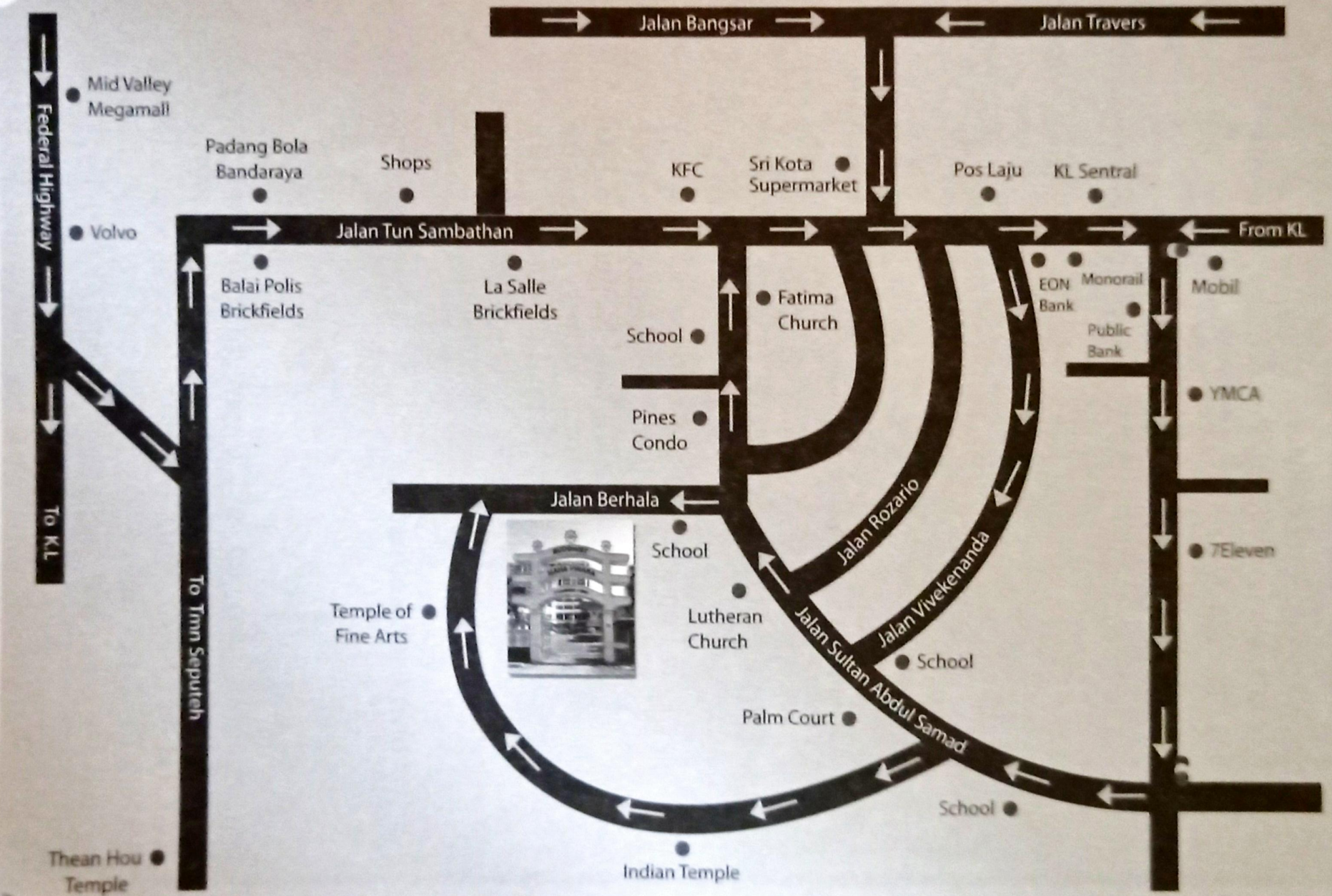
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

• Daily Puja		6.30a.m. & 7.30p.m.
• Choir Practice	Tuesday	8.00p.m.
• Special Talk	Friday	1.00p.m.
• Dhamma Talk	Friday	8.00p.m.
• Meditation	Mon, Wed & Thurs	8.00p.m.
• Bojjhanga Puja	Saturday	7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m.
• Puja & Talk	Sunday	8.30a.m.
• Dhamma School	Sunday	8.30a.m. & 11.00a.m.
• Dharma for the Deaf (fortnightly)	Sunday	2.00p.m.
• Feeding the Needy	Sunday	5.00p.m.
• Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic (twice a month)	Sunday	10.00a.m. - 2.00p.m.
• Sinhala Language Classes	Sunday	1.30p.m. - 3.00p.m.
• Sinhala Cultural Dance Classes	Sunday	3.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
• Diploma, Degree & Masters Program in Buddhism	Sunday	2.00p.m. - 7.00p.m.

DONATION IN CASH OR KIND CAN BE MADE FOR:

- BISDS Building Fund - Classrooms, Meditation Pavilion, Lifts, Meeting and Counseling rooms
- Free Publications (Malaysia and Overseas) - Annually about 300,000 books in 30 Languages
- Education Fund
- Full Moon and New Moon services sponsorship
- General Maintenance of the Buddhist Maha Vihara
- Utilities (Electricity, water, telephone, administration etc)
- Illumination (lighting) of the Main Shrine Hall
- Illumination (lighting) of the Awkana Buddha & Cakra
- Monks' Dana - Offering Monk Requisites of Food, Medicine, Lodging, Robes, etc
- Welfare Fund
- Special Religious Events - Wesak
  - Annual Blessing Service
  - Annual Merit Offering
  - Kathina Pinkama (ceremony)
  - Monks' Novitiate Programme

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE NOBLE TRIPLE GEM BE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY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School
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☐ Others, please specify .....

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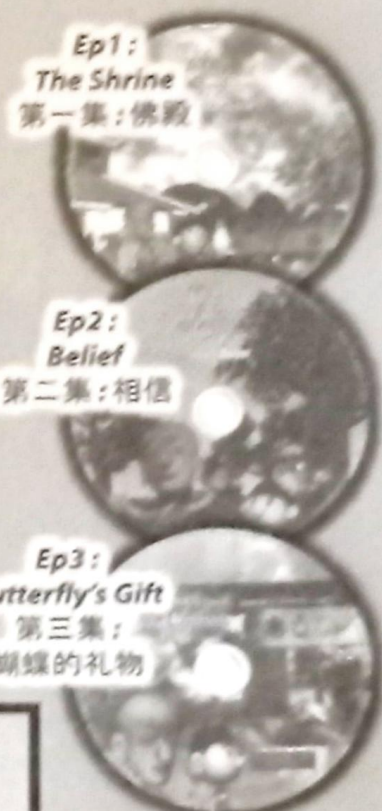
The Abbot and the Orphan

住持长老与小孤儿

The Abbot and the Orphan animation series is produced by the Buddhist Institute Sunday Dhamma School. The DVD's are available in the BMV office. **Each DVD is available for a donation of RM15.00**. 住持长老与小孤儿卡通片集乃周日佛法学校的制作，众佛友可以从本寺的办事处获取此卡通片集的DVD，每片DVD只需捐款15令吉。

For further information please contact info@bisds.org.



DVD VIDEO

PAL ALL REGIONS
PCM Digital Stereo

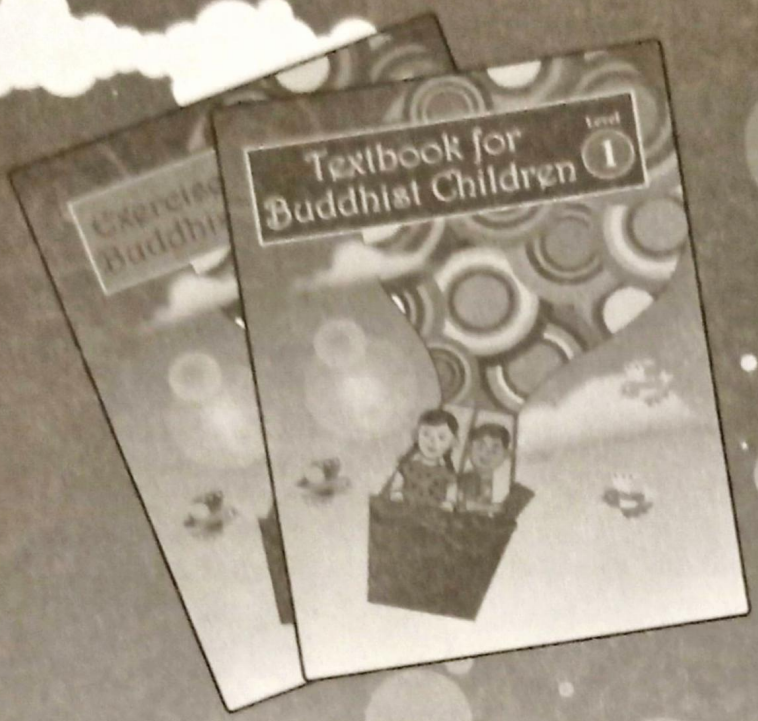
16:9 ANAMORPHIC WIDESCREEN

English
Mandarin

Produced by Buddhist Institute Sunday Dhamma School, Buddhist Maha Vihara
BISDS, Buddhist Maha Vihara, 123 Jalan Berhala, Brickfields,50470 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel : 03-22741141 • Fax : 03-22752570 • Web : www.bisds.org • Email : info@bisds.org

The Buddha taught children too!

7 year old Rahula, Sopaka, Sona, etc.



RM 20

We too should teach the Dhamma to our children. Please get a set from the Vihara office for your children, nephews, nieces or grandchildren.

RM 10

Sabba Dhanam Dhamma Dhanam Jinati

The Gift Of Truth Excels All Other Gifts

Dhammapada

一切施中法施最胜 - 法句经

Sasana Abhiwurdhi Wardhana Society

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